

DE 2305.02 US

PATENT

16. (NEW) The optical system of claim 14, wherein said light beams are generated respectively at different timing.

17. (NEW) A method of directing multiple light beams to the surface of an optical disc, comprising the steps of:

directing a plurality of light beams to a plurality of optical coating planes which respectively reflect said plurality of light beam to an identical optical axis; and

directing by a mirror any one of said plurality of light beams oriented at said identical optical axis to the surface of said optical disc.

REMARKS

I. Status

In the Office Action mailed October 30, 2002, the Examiner noted that claims 1-13 were pending, and rejected claims 1-13. Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been amended. New claims 14-17 have been added. Thus, in view of the foregoing, claims 1-17 remain pending for reconsideration, which is requested. No new matter has been added. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

II. Drawings

Figure 9 has been corrected according to the Examiner's comments.

DE 2305.02 US

PATENT

III. Rejection of claims 1, 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 2 to which the Examiner has not objected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Hence, the Applicant respectfully request removal of this rejection.

IV. Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. in view of Vincent et al. The applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The invention of Vincent et al. does not disclose an optical device used for an optical read/write head as recited in claim 2 because such device designed to combine optical beams of different colors would not work in an optical read/write head for the purpose of bending optical paths to an "identical optical axis" (claims 1, 11, 12). Thus, the Examiner has cited Kato et al. for its disclosure of an optical read/write head. Because Kato et al. nor any of the other cited references does not provide a motivation for combining the apparatus of the present invention with an optical read/write head, there was no motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the reference Kato et al. and Vincent et al. to produce the present invention. That is, the Examiner states that this combination would have been obvious "to do this to simplify the optical path and reduce the cost and weight of the optical read/write head by substituting the two beam splitters of Kato et al. for the single optical device as taught by Vincent et al." But the Office Action does not provide any quotations from prior art to support this observation outside of the specification for the present invention. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner produce prior art showing such motivation.

Furthermore, it would be impossible to directly substitute the device of Vincent et al. into the optical head of Kato et al. because the device of Vincent et al. which combines color frequencies would not function correctly in the optical head of Kato et al. to bend two optical paths into an "identical optical axis". And furthermore the device of Vincent et al. having two separate components does

DE 2305.02 US

PATENT

not represent a simplification over the two beam splitters of Kato et al. Therefore, the present invention recited in independent claims 1, 11, 12 and depending claims therefrom is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

V. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 6 recites a first and second light generated at different timings. Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such a feature. The other dependent claims also recite additional distinguishing features. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

VI. New Claims

The new claims recite subject matter which is patentable over the prior art. For example, claim 14 recites an optical system for writing to and reading from an optical disk comprising a plurality of optical coating planes for respectively reflecting a plurality of light beams to an identical optical axis. Furthermore, claim 17 recites to a method for directing multiple light beams to the surface of an optical disk by directing a plurality of light beam to a plurality of optical coating planes, which respectively reflect this plurality of light beams to an identical optical axis.

VII. Concluding Matters

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

DE 2305.02 US

PATENT

Should there be any remaining questions to correct format matters, it is urged that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney with a telephone interview to expedite and complete prosecution.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 04-1175.

Respectfully submitted,
DISCOVISION ASSOCIATES

Date: 12/16/02


Richard Stokey
Registration No. 40,383

DISCOVISION ASSOCIATES
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
P.O. Box 19616
Irvine, California 92623
Telephone: (949) 660-5006

P:\ABG\PPD\DE\2305\02\Amendment_after_final.doc

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

DE 2305.02 US

PATENT

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (AMENDED ONCE) An optical device used in an optical read/write head comprising a first optical coating plane and a second optical coating plane for respectively reflecting a first light and a second light to an identical optical axis.

11. (AMENDED ONCE) An optical device used in an optical read/write head comprising plural optical coating planes for reflecting plural laser beams to an identical optical axis.

12. (AMENDED ONCE) An optical device used in an optical read/write head comprising a first optical plane and a second optical coating plane coated on two opposite sides of a light-penetrable material for reflecting a first light and a second light to an identical optical axis.

New claims 14-17 have been added.